

Members

Rep. Jesse Villalpando, Chair
Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Brian Hasler
Rep. Ralph Foley
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Rep. Jeff Thompson
Sen. Luke Kenley, Vice-Chair
Sen. David Ford
Sen. David Long
Sen. Glenn Howard
Sen. Timothy Lanane
Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE LAW AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date:	September 13, 1999
Meeting Time:	10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place:	State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 404
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	2

Members Present: Rep. Jesse Villalpando, Chair; Rep. William Crawford; Rep. Brian Hasler; Rep. Ralph Foley; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Rep. Jeff Thompson; Sen. Luke Kenley, Vice-Chair; Sen. David Long; Sen. Glenn Howard.

Members Absent: Sen. David Ford; Sen. Timothy Lanane; Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Representative Villalpando called the meeting to order at 10:15. Senator Kenley referenced a report entitled "Juvenile Court Statistics 1996" published by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and requested that copies be made and sent to all Commission members. Representative Foley stated that he received another publication from the OJJDP entitled "Balanced and Restorative Justice Project (BARJ)" (Fact Sheet #42 July 1996) and also requested that copies be made and sent to all Commission members.

WITNESS TESTIMONY

James Hmurovich, Director of the Division of Family and Children (DFC), Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, testified about the role of restorative justice in child abuse and neglect cases based on his experience as DFC Director for 6.5 years, and his prior 20 years of experience with the Department of Correction. An outline of his remarks is available as an exhibit. He stressed the link between maltreatment of children and subsequent delinquent behavior. He praised Senator Kenley's bill establishing Early Intervention Planning Teams and the importance of schools developing plans to handle delinquency and child abuse and neglect.

¹Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

He stated that the original Early Intervention Planning Teams law, which passed in 1997, required that plans be established in 1998. The legislature strengthened the law in 1999 by focusing on prevention models. He stressed the importance of using the family as a change agent instead of excluding it from treatment plans. He agreed that concerns about confidentiality exists when information sharing occurs between agencies.

Bill Glick, Executive Director of the Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force, Inc. distributed a handout entitled "Indiana County Juvenile Detention Centers." Representative Crawford commented that while Camp Summit (a juvenile boot camp) is the most expensive center, boot camps have the highest recidivism rates. Mr. Glick stated that the biggest piece missing from the juvenile offender puzzle is aftercare, the process by which juvenile offenders are transitioned back into the community. Senator Long asked what can be done to improve aftercare programs. Mr. Glick explained that the difficulty is that caseloads and resources vary by county. Representative Crawford asked what the average length of a stay is for a status offender. Evelyn Ridley Turner, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Correction, responded that the statute sets out a 90-day period which can be extended at the option of the court. Representative Crawford requested a breakdown of the per diem rates for the juvenile facilities in the state from the DOC.

Dan Shrader, a public defender in Marion County, explained the penalties for burglary and resisting law enforcement and clarified that status offenders can only be incarcerated for running away or for truancy, and then only when those offenses are committed while the juvenile is on probation. He stated that status offenders are not supposed to be detained in juvenile detention centers, except for runaways, which may be so detained for a maximum of 24 hours. Ms. Ridley-Turner expressed the need to expand facilities to accommodate the growing number of female juvenile offenders.

Jeff Bercovitz, Probation/Juvenile Director, Indiana Judicial Center, commented regarding the merits of separating Title 31 into two titles (one for juvenile law, and one for family law). After distributing a handout, he stated that because the Supreme Court is in the middle of a Family Court Pilot Project, separating Title 31 into two titles would be premature. Senator Long observed that since caseloads in the area of marriage dissolutions are overwhelming, some restructuring is needed to address the problem.

Representative Hasler expressed an interest in the aftercare programming available in other states. He stated communities provide the most effective aftercare. He stated his desire to find an alternative to boot camps and incarceration that wouldn't be as extreme as a boot camp, but provide a structured transition that would get kids involved in their communities. Senator Long requested that Judge James W. Payne, Juvenile Division, Marion Superior Court, and Judge Charles F. Pratt, Allen Superior Court, be invited to testify to the Committee about where the juvenile justice system is breaking down.

Representative Budak expressed an interest in hearing from Judge Robert Gilmore of LaPorte County, which is where the boot camp is located. Representative Crawford stated that it is important to hear from prosecutors as well, and referenced a handout entitled "Reclaim Ohio" which reports on the improvement Ohio has experienced in its juvenile justice system. Representative Thompson stated that a need exists to involve public schools in the Committee's discussions about juvenile justice, and asked that Dr. Wanda Reese, Director of Alternative Schools at Indianapolis Public Schools, be asked to testify before the Committee about what public schools are doing about juvenile crime.

Representative Foley reiterated Senator Ford's observation that our juvenile system should be expanded to include juvenile offenders up to age 24. Representative Budak asked for more information about the Early Intervention Team Plan from James Hmurovich.

OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Villalpando reminded the Committee that a preliminary report on the Committee's work is due October 31, 1999 and a final report is due October 31, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Committee, Representative Villalpando set the next meeting for October 13, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 404 and adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.